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A True and Perfect

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# RELATION

Of Three Inhumane

# MURDERS,

Committed

By *William Blisse* alias *Watts*, of the Parish of *Mims* in the County of *Middlesex*, upon the Bodies of *Will. Johnson* his near Kinsman, and *Robert Porter* Servant to *Mr. Nichols*.

ALSO

The manner how he killed, robbed and striped a Drovers Boy, as he was going to *Market-street*.

With the wonderful discovery of the Murtherer.

LIKEWISE

The Sentence of Death pronounced against him at the Sessions-house in the *Old Bayly, London*, Feb. 28, 1672. and the manner of his Execution, which is to be seen at the *Round-about-house* near *Kickend*.



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RELATION

MURDER

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**A True and perfect Relation of three Bloudy MURDERS**, committed by *William Blifs*, upon the Body of *William Johnson* his Kinsman, and *Robert Porter* a Servant to of Mr. *Nichols*, &c.

**I**F we look back upon former ages and turn over the variety of ancient and modern Histories, we shall find that Revenge and Murther have ever proved fatal crimes to their undertakers, for let them be never so secretly contrived, or the shedding of innocent Blood never so wretchedly perpetrated; yet as our Conscience is to us a thousand Witnesses, so God is to us a thousand Consciences; first to bring it to light, and then their Authors to deserved punishments for the same, when they least dream or think thereof. For as there is no peace to the wicked, so they shall find no Peace or Tranquility here on Earth, either with God or his Creatures; because if they would conceal it, the very Fowls of the Air, or Beasts of the Feild, yea, the very stones and timber of their Chamber would detect it, a powerful example and president whereof, we may behold in this ensuing History; where a wretched Creature making himself guilty of these bloody Crimes, by the providence of God is discovered; and receives exemplary and condign punishment for the

**W***illiam Blifs* commonly known by the name of *Watts of Kicksend*, in the County of *Middlesex* Butcher, being about the Age of one or two and twenty years, committed an inhumane Murther upon

one *William Johnson* his Kinsman, Robbing him of six pound in mony, and then threw the body into a Pond, which was in some days after found by the Neighbours: And this *William Blifs* being observed to be last in his company, was upon suspicion of the Murther apprehended and carryed before a Justice of the Peace, who committed him to *Newgate*; where he lay till the Sessions, but no positive evidence coming against him, he was cleared of this Fact: yet notwithstanding the eyes and judgment of men could not discover this, the Justice of God began to be exemplary upon him, striking him from head to foot, with a loathsome Leprous disease, who before was clear skind and well shaped, and comely in all his parts! yet did not this deter this wicked Villain from a farther progress in his bloody and wicked practises; for where a heart is given to covetousness and cruelty, there is little sign of Grace; and therefore less hope of prosperity either in this life or the next: for those are sins which so much eclips the Judgments, and darkens the Understandings, that the Man thereby runs blindfolded and headlong to all misery and confusion: and makes his estate so desperate, that he deserves not to be pittied by any, because he would not pity or compassionate others.

Thus lived this wretch for ten or twelve months endeavouring to justifie himself, and get credit and reputation, paying some debts with the mony he took from the person Murthered, and now he again treads the tragick stage of blood, for being hired to conduct a young man (servant to *Mr. Nichols*, in the Parish of *Mims*) through  
*Enfield*

*Enfield-Chafe*, discovering by some discourse that the young man had mony about him, watching his opportunity, killed him with a Hedg-Bill in the *Chafe*; robbed him of his mony, and took a Bill of four pound out of his pocket, which he afterward carried to the Master of the murdered, demanding the mony with threats; pretending that his Servant was his Brother, and was not well, and could not stay for his money; notwithstanding his threats the mony was not paid. This was evidenced by the said Master at his Trial, but the manner of the discovery was strange and miraculous, for some Hounds being kept hard by the place where the murdered person was buried, senting the dead Corps that was but shallowly buried in the ground, with their paws and noses tears up the Earth and drags up the body: eating part of his bowels, and leaving several of his bones above-ground, which this Villain observing before any one else, buries it again, and covers it with Green Sods, and sticks bushes about it to keep off the hounds, which was one means of his discovery; for he was observed to cut such bushes in the *Chafe*, which being applied to the places where he had cut them, they did exactly fit.

But on the 24th of day *February*, 1672. the hounds being carried out by their Master, and some gentlemen to hunt, coming near to this place left the sent of their Game, and rushed through these bushes, and again tore up the body, miserably torn about the bowels and breast, but as God would have it, they had not torn his Face;

upon this the Gentlemen retired with their dogs & acquainted the neighbours with the discovery, upon which many flock to the place, and among the rest the Murtherer, who being desired by one *John Hardyman* a Butcher (a neighbour thereabouts) to touch the body, he refused it with an Oath, whereupon the person replied, *I am afraid you have had a hand in this mans death: But the Villain then made answer, have a care that I have not a hand in yours:* upon which he was apprehended, and upon several circumstances proving the fact, at the Coroners Inquest was Committed to *Newgate*, which at the Sessions in the *Old-Bayly*, Feb. 28th. was most clearly proved against him, and he sentenced to be Executed at *Tybourn*; but upon the Countries request, the Bench was pleased to order his Execution to be at the place where he committed the Bloody Murther: where he is to hang in Chains, as a memorable example of Gods Justice, in discovering and punishing such Crimes, and to deter others from doing the like, and the charge of this Execution the Country thereabout voluntarily offered to defray.

Since his Imprisonment, another suspicious sign of a Murther of his hath been discovered, viz. There is found some Cloaths hid in a Hay-Mow, at the *Checker* in *Kicksend*, near to this Murtherers Fathers house. The Circumstances giving the cause of this suspicion are these. A Drovers Boy coming from *London*, was buying a Pie at this Murtherers Fathers house, and was observed by the Murtherer to pull mony out of his shooe to pay for it, who examined the Boy, why he carryed mony in his shooes, the



Boy replies ; *I have that about me, for which many a man loseth his Life*; upon which he was observed to walk along with the Boy toward *Market-Street*, but the Boy was never seen since that time ; And the Cloathes are known to be the same he wore when he bought the Pie.

Now from this dreadfull and bloody story, the Reader may learn how God in his due time and providence doth assuredly detect and punish Murther ; let this exemplary punishment be a caveat for all persons not only to detest these foul sins of Coveteousness and Murther in others, but to hate and abhor them in themselves, for if to the rest of our sins we once consent to add that scarlet and crying sin of Murther, that blood which we untimely send to Earth, will in Gods time draw down vengeance on our heads from Heaven.

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*A summary account of the Murtherers Actions.*

**W**illiam Bliss alias Watts, was in Newgate about two years since, for the Murdering of one William Johnson, the son of William Johnson a Dyer in Southwark. The case this, Bliss and one John Clay (who dyed in Goale) were committed for the Murther of the said Boy upon suspicion. Bliss knowing that he

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he had mony to pay to one *Nichols*, from his Master, which was his Uncle, *Richard Johnson* a Butcher at *Kicksend* near *Hadley*, on *Barnet* Common.



**W**illiam *Bliss* committed by *Francis Croyley* Esq; upon suspicion of Murdering one *Robert Porter*, the 24th of Feb. 1672. The person was murdered about *Michaelmas* last, & his body was found buried near the Round about-House at *Kicksend* by a pack of Dogs Hunting, who left the Hare in view to scrape over the place where the body was buried, (the Hogs having much torn the Carcase) the cloathes was seen and known by several marks to be the cloathes of *Porter*, who was never seen since he was in *Blisses* company. The Witnesses proved that this *Bliss* had been two nights with him, and had been some days in his company, and also knew that he had money about him. *Bliss* denyed all this. Whereupon he was convicted, and is to be Hanged in Chains near the Round about House at *Kicksend*.

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